Received October 24, 1766.

XXXVIII. *An Account of a ſucceſsful Operation for the Hydrops Pectoris, by* William Moreland, *Surgeon at* Greenwich; *communicated by* W. Watſon, *M. D. F. R. S.*

Read Dec. 18, 1766.

AS very few inſtances are to be met with in medical or chirurgical writers, of the ſucceſsful opening of the thorax in the dropſy of the breaſt; the following perſon's caſe, who was preſerved by it in the moſt imminent danger of death, may encourage others under ſimilar circumſtances to perform the operation, which has hitherto been very rarely attempted.

Anne Harmſworth of Crooms Hill, Greenwich, of a thin, hectic habit of body, and ſubject to defluxions on the breaſt, about the latter end of the year 1760, complained of a ſmart, ſhooting pain in her right ſide, which ſomewhat affected her breaſt. Her evacuations by ſtool and urine were by no means deficient, nor was there any remarkable appearance on the part affected. A bliſter was applied, and oily medicines given, which relieved her in a few days, yet not ſo intirely but that ſhe had returns of the pain at different times, though not ſufficient to make her apply for advice, till November 1762, when ſhe was ſeized with a much greater degree of the ſame kind of pain, attended with difficulty of reſpiration, a ſenſe of weight on

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on the diaphragm, and a quick pulſe, with a little more heat than uſual.

On the 18th of December, I ſaw her, for the firſt time, with Mr. Mills, a ſurgeon at Greenwich, when ſhe related to me the above complaints, now much augmented, having a ſenſe of fulneſs in that ſide (which was ready to burſt, as ſhe termed it) and an evident fluctuation in the right cavity of the thorax. But her left ſide was free from complaint. She made very little urine, and that limpid. The expectorant medicines (bliſter and cathartic) were adminiſtred without the leaſt relief; her ſymptoms gradually increaſing.

On the 1ſt of January 1763, ſhe could breathe in no other ſituation than that of the thorax brought forward to the knees, in which poſture ſhe continued till the 30th of January, when finding the ribs elevated exceedingly, and the right ſide of the thorax uniformly diſtended, with every other reaſon tending to confirm the notion of a fluid's being lodged there: we, in company with Mr. William Sharp (whoſe opinion we had, this day, requeſted) propoſed the operation to her, which the preſent preſſure of her diſeaſe, and the little probability of her living long in that ſtate, determined her to conſent to.

I, then, in preſence of Mr. William Sharp, ſurgeon to St. Bartholemew's, and Mr. Mills, made an inciſion, about four inches long, between the ſixth and ſeventh ribs, (reckoning upwards) and about half way between the ſpine and ſternum into the cavity of the thorax, and diſcharged from thence ſeven pints of limpid ſerum. Immediately the difficulty of breathing was removed, but a faintneſs ſucceeding ſeemed to endanger her

her for a ſhort time, occaſioned more by the ſudden removal of the preſſure from the lungs, than any other inconvenience from the operation, the loſs of blood being very inconſiderable.

From this time to the next morning, the urine was ſecreted and diſcharged to the quantity of three pints more than ſhe had drank. On the firſt dreſſing, the next day, there iſſued about a ſpoonfull of ſerum, but none afterwards: and though ſhe remained weak and faint for ſeveral days, yet ſhe had no other inconvenience, from the time of the operation to that of the cicatrization of the wound, which was compleated in leſs than a month; the wound having been dreſſed ſuperficially the whole time.

It may be remarked, that, though, at the time of the operation, ſhe was two months gone with child, ſhe nevertheleſs compleated her pregnancy, and is now in as good a ſtate as ſhe had enjoyed for many years before.

XXXIX. *A Letter*